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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Gregory Pais, ND, DHANP [gpaisnd1@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 3:06 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Vote "NO" in amending 25 Pa Code Chapter 95

Importance: High

Dear Environmental Quality Board Members,

On behalf of the Susquehanna River, the Chesapeake Bay and all future generations, please do NOT amend 25 Code Chapter 95 (relating to Wastewater Treatment Requirements). The proposed amendments include the establishment of new LESS stringent effluent standards for new sources of wastewaters containing high Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentrations.

TDS cause toxicity to fresh water species through increases in salinity and, changes in the ionic toxicity of individual ions and results in a shift in biotic communities. Studies show that other watersheds in Pennsylvania (eg the Monongahela River) are already being adversely impacted by TDS discharges due to inadequately filtered wastewater discharges from gas drilling operations.

Additionally, watershed analyses conducted by the PA DEP indicate that the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and the Moshannon River Watersheds are severely limited in their capacity to assimilate new loads of TDS and sulfates, primarily due to acid mine drainage from long-abandoned coal mines—a legacy of Pennsylvania's last energy rush. Both contaminants would be released in higher levels if 25 Pa Code Chapter 95 is amended. Additionally, TDS and sulfate loading would reverse years of hard-won progress by Pa DEP in improving water quality in these watersheds.

Please vote "NO" in amending 25 Pa Code Chapter 95.

Thank you for your support of the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay.

In health,

Dr. Pais

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